

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendments

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled.
Claims 26-49 are pending.

Claims 26-49 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

I. In view of Applicant's arguments (see Remarks pages 7-10 filed 12/2/2009) with respect to claims 26-49, the arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. The finality and rejections of the above claims has therefore been withdrawn.

Reasons for Allowance

II. This communication warrants no Examiner's reason for allowance, as Applicant's reply filed 12/2/2009 makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of Applicant's comments in the Remarks filed on 12/2/2009 with respect to the claimed limitations of "searching...for an iterative search result using a subsequent key comprising the subtree index found in a preceding search...and at least a next portion of a first key" sufficiently present the reasons claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement of an Examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

The claimed invention is not specifically disclosed or remotely suggested in the prior art of record. A review of Claims 26-49 in view of the Examiner's remarks above, indicates that Claims 26-49 are allowable over the prior art of record.

III. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

IV. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KRISTIE D. SHINGLES whose telephone number is (571)272-3888. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday 9:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kristie D. Shingles
Examiner
Art Unit 2444

/KDS/
/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2444